



Eco ADVENTURE TOURS Newsletter

Great Spring Adventures



Come and discover the “WILD” side of Miami

South Florida welcomes the spring season with noticeably milder and longer days, the vibrant display of new growth on Live Oak trees and the bursting of colorful wildflowers across the Everglades landscape. The great mystery of spring bird migration begins with the first arrival in March of tiny Northern Parula Warblers singing and feeding on a menu of insects in the forest canopy, while Purple Martins are observed soaring high over parks and farmlands scouting for potential nesting sites. In late spring look for the arrival of neo-tropical birds such as Swallow-tailed kites gliding over the treetops of pineland and hardwood hammock forests, joined by Gray Kingbirds, White-crowned pigeons and Mangrove cuckoos that inhabit coastal mangroves. This is a special time of year to visit your Miami-Dade Parks and participate in an Eco Adventure tour. We have a great line up of some of your favorite canoe, kayak, snorkeling and bike trips. If you enjoy hiking and want to experience a real Everglades Adventure, join us on one of our swamp tromps in the Big Cypress Swamp. Once again Naturalist/author Roger Hammer will be offering educational

talks and excursions to showcase the spring wealth of Everglade's wildflowers. Whether it's on a guided walk, bicycle trip, or simply enjoying a narrated slide lecture, you will find the Everglades wildflowers to be some of the most interesting and enchanting flowers in the world. Also be sure to check out the schedule for our popular guided Owl Walks that will be conducted in Castellow Hammock, and Greynolds Parks. These walks will provide you with a great opportunity to observe Screech owls and other nocturnal wildlife that inhabit these park sites. If you always wanted to try a challenging canoe trip, check out our Matheson's Mangrove canoe trip conducted along the quiet mangrove-lined creeks and open waters of Biscayne Bay in Matheson Hammock Park. Learn about the history and natural history of the bay while perfecting the basic skills of canoeing with expert guides. Whatever activities you choose, you can count on Miami-Dade Parks with seventy-five (75) years of parks excellence, to provide you with the best in eco-adventure tours and programs. We guarantee it will be fun and an adventure!

KAYAKING AND SNORKELING Adventures

There is simply no better way to experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay and the coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean than from the seat of an ocean kayak. Explore these biologically rich waters with our skilled naturalist guides and experience marine life up close and personal. On these trips it is common to have Bottled-nose Dolphin swim right up to your boat, or to see Nurse

Sharks and Spotted Eagle Rays cruising over dense sea grass beds below you. These trips are designed and rated for a wide range of kayaking abilities. Fee includes all kayaking equipment. Snorkeling equipment can be rented at an additional \$5.00 fee. For all kayak trips, unless otherwise stated, bring snacks, water (1 quart minimum), sunscreen, insect repellent, long-sleeved shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat. It is suggested that you secure important belongings in a sealable plastic bag or plastic container. Participants under 18 years of age (depending on program site), are welcome after completing a Release of Liability form by a parent or legal guardian. County regulations require that life vests to be worn by participants at all times. Customized tours can be arranged for groups of six or more by calling the Eco-tourism Office: (305) 365-3018.

FOSSILIZED REEF KAYAK AND SNORKEL TRIP

Friday, May 21, 2004

Saturday, May 22, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM -12:00 Noon

Sunday, May 14, 2004

Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Person -Rental of snorkeling gear is available at an additional \$5.00 Fee.

Rated: Easy to Moderate – a great introduction to snorkeling for beginners. It consists of 1 1/2 miles of coastal kayaking and 45 minutes of shallow water snorkeling.

Kayak along the Key Biscayne shoreline exploring the abundant marine life that inhabits the sea grass beds. Upon reaching the dive site, you will put on your snorkeling gear and explore the fossilized mangrove reef formed 1500 years ago from black mangroves. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

FIRE REEF KAYAK AND SNORKEL TRIP

Saturday, May 29, 2004

Monday, May 31, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Fee: \$30.00

Rated: Easy to Moderate

On this new trip you will experience a patch reef with coral heads, sea whips and an assortment of tropical fish. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

INTRODUCTION TO KAYAKING AND SNORKELING WORKSHOPS

CRANDON PARK

Snorkeling and Kayaking workshops for groups are available at Crandon Park upon request. Workshops are designed to offer participants instruction in the fundamentals of snorkeling and



kayaking which will include basic procedures, equipment use, skills, and safety techniques on open ocean waters. A minimum of 6 participants is necessary. **Call (305) 365-3018 for more information and to schedule your group.**

SNORKEL WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 1, 2004

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 23, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

Fee: \$15.00

A basic introduction to snorkeling skills and safety.

Call (305) 365-3018 for more information and reservations. Meet at Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.

KAYAK WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 15, 2004

Sunday, May 2 & 30, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fee: \$15.00

A basic introduction to kayaking skills and safety.

Call (305) 365-3018 for more information and reservations. Meet at Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.

MIAMI-DADE PARKS CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Miami-Dade Parks is celebrating its 75th anniversary of providing outstanding recreational facilities and programming to South Florida residents and visitors. The Department manages more than 12,000 acres, roughly half of which are environmentally sensitive or threatened natural areas, maintains more than 283 parks, recreation facilities and greenways and provides recreational services to nearly two million residents and visitors of all ages. EcoAdventures offers a variety of programs throughout the year. Also, please visit www.miamidade.gov/parks for the Miami-Dade Parks 75th anniversary events schedule.



INDICATES BAYNANZA-RELATED ACTIVITY

BAYNANZA '04 is an annual event that takes place in April 2004. The Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) hosts activities throughout the month to help improve our awareness and to get involved in protecting our air, water, land and natural resources. Also visit www.miamidade.gov/derm/baynanza for more information.

NatureCenters

NATURE WALKS, PROGRAMS and DATES

ARCH CREEK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

1855 N.E. 135 Street
North Miami, Florida
Phone: (305) 944-6111

ARCH CREEK GHOST TOURS

Wednesday, April 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2004
Time: 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Fee: \$5.00/Person

Take a night tour of Arch Creek Park and learn about it's spooky past. Hear personal accounts of ghostly encounters that have occurred at Arch Creek since the late 1800's and maybe have an encounter of your own. **Meet at Arch Creek Museum, call for reservations at least 1 day in advance (305) 944-6111.**

GUIDED NATURE WALK

Saturday, May 8, 22, 2004
Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Fee: \$3.00/person

Join us for a walk through Arch Creek Park where you will learn about the history and several plants that have been used for food and medicine by Native American Indians and earlier settlers in this area. **Call for reservations 3 days in advance, (305) 944-6111. Meet at Arch Creek Museum.**

A.D. BARNES PARK & “SENSE OF WONDER” NATURE CENTER

3701 S.W. 72 Avenue
Miami, Florida
(305) 662-4124

NATURE TRAIL

Daily
Time: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

The naturalist-guided walk and self-guided trail walks focus on native plant communities and the ecology at work that keeps these communities alive. Learn about the differences between a pine rockland and a hardwood hammock. **For more information and to make reservations for a naturalist-guided walk, please call (305) 662-4124.**

BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE CENTER

17555 S.W. 79th Avenue
Miami, Florida
Phone: (305) 255-4767

VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Saturday, May 1, 2004
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Fee: Free!

Learn about native plants and do your part to keep our park beautiful. Dress to work. **For reservations and more information, please call (305) 255-4767.**

WEEKEND NATURE WALKS & TALKS

Saturdays & Sundays
Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Fee: \$2.00/Person

Join a park naturalist every Saturday and Sunday for a variety of natural history topics on the nature trails ranging from native plants, snakes, turtles, to recycling. **Reservations recommended: (305) 255-4767. Meet at the Nature Center.**

NEW! THE FRESHWATER AQUARIUM EXHIBIT OPENED IN MAY 2003!

Visit the first freshwater exhibit for Miami-Dade Parks. This 822-gallon acrylic aquarium contains native freshwater fish, plants, turtles and invertebrate animals. View this permanent display which serves as an educational tool in telling the story about South Florida's rich history and ecology. **Call (305) 255-4767 for more information.**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

22301 S.W. 162 Avenue
Homestead, Florida
Phone: (305) 242-7688

NATURE TRAILS

Daily: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Naturalist-guided and self-guided nature walk leads you through a half-mile tropical hardwood hammock known for its variety of rare plants and animals. Walk-in visitors are welcome from dawn to dusk. **For more information and to reserve a naturalist-guided walk, please call (305) 242-7688.**

CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND NATURE CENTER

4000 Crandon Boulevard
Key Biscayne, Florida
Phone (305) 361-6767, Ext. 112
Enter through North Beach Parking Lot #1
Parking Fee: \$ 4.00/Vehicle

This is a designated Baynanza Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day Site B The Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center is your gateway to the Bear Cut Preserve, a 265 acre remnant of the natural barrier island located on the north tip of Key Biscayne. Visit the center's exhibit room and aquariums with different recreated underwater habitats. Self-guided nature trails are available. The Nature Center is open daily, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

PUBLIC NATURE WALKS

Naturalist guided hammock nature walks are conducted every Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Walks are \$1.00/Person. **Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center. For more information call: (305) 361-6767.**

GREYNOLDS PARK

17530 W. Dixie Highway
North Miami Beach, Florida
Phone (305) 945-3425
Boathouse Phone (305) 948-2891

GUIDED HISTORICAL NATURE WALK

Every Saturday and Sunday
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Fee: \$3.00/Person, \$4.00/Entrance Fee

Get the full natural experience by trekking the unknown regions of Greynolds Park. See animals in their natural surroundings and learn about plant life that might not be seen on the paved trail. **Reservations required, please call (305) 948-2891. Meet at Greynolds Boathouse.**

OWL PROWL

Thursday, May 13, June 17, 2004
Saturday, May 8, 29, 2004
Time: Begins at 8:00 PM
Fee: \$5.00/Person, \$4.00/Entrance Fee

Whoooo lingers in the woods at night? Enter the darkness after sunset for a unique view of the many owls and other creatures that roam when the lights go out. **Reservations required, please call (305) 948-2891. Meet at Greynolds Boathouse.**

DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

16701 S.W. 72nd Avenue
Miami, Florida
Phone: (305) 235-1668

DEERING ESTATE HISTORIC TOURS

Daily - Please call for times: (305) 235-1668
Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Fee: \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child (Includes Admission to the Estate and historic homes)

See and walk through some of South Florida's earliest buildings. The Richmond Cottage was built between 1896 and 1916, is one of the finest remaining examples of South Florida's vernacular architecture and the Stone House built in 1922 is a unique example of Florida's Mediterranean Revival style architecture.

DEERING ESTATE NATURAL AREAS TOURS

Daily- Please call for times: (305) 235-1668

Fee: \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child (Includes admission to the Estate and historic homes)

Enjoy a one hour guided walking tour through tropical hardwood hammock to a Tequesta burial mound. Learn about this unique ecosystem as you walk the half-mile boardwalk tour that is part of this 450 acre environmental preserve featuring archaeological sites and rare native flora and fauna. Bring along a pair of binoculars, drinking water and insect repellent.

BUTTERFLY WALK

Saturday, May 15, 2004

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Fee: \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child (Includes Admission to the Estate and historic homes)

Both beginners and experts can find, observe and identify the numerous colorful butterfly species that fill the 450-acre bayside preserve. This walk lasts approximately 2 hours through various habitats. Bring along a pair of binoculars and drinking water. Apply your insect repellent before the walk. This walk is offered on the third Saturday of every month. **Meet your naturalist guide at the Visitor's Center.**

BIRD WALK AT DEERING ESTATE

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Time: 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Fee: \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child (Includes Admission to the Estate and historic homes)

Come learn about local and migrating birds as you explore various habitats of the Park and find and identify numerous bird species. Bring your binoculars and drinking water. Apply your insect repellent before the walk. This walk is offered on the second Saturday of every month. **Meet your naturalist guide at the Visitor's Center.**

MIAMI METROZOO

12400 S.W. 152 Street (Coral Reef Drive)
Miami, Florida

Phone: (305) 251-0400 (General Zoo Information)

Phone: (305) 255-5551 (Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida)

PINE ROCKLAND WALK

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Time: 3:45 PM

Fee: Included in Zoo Admission - \$12.00/Person (Includes tax)

Meet your naturalist guide at the Warthog Exhibit and begin your Guided Pine Rockland Walk through the fascinating landscape of this rare native pine rockland habitat. Learn about the geology, fire dependency, and historic plants. Comfortable sturdy shoes are recommended for walking on uneven terrain as well as a hat and sunscreen. Smoking is not permitted. Participants must be 13 years and older. **Call the Education Department for more Pineland Walk Information.**

Nature Watch

Butterflying in Miami-Dade Parks

by Roger Hammer

Butterfly watching, or “butterflying” as it is now quaintly called, has become as popular among nature enthusiasts as bird watching. Close-focusing binoculars have become all the rage as this new-found hobby takes off across the United States. More and more butterfly watchers are discovering that Miami-Dade County Parks are an excellent place to find many common and unusual butterflies in their natural habitats, and spring is the perfect time to head out on your adventure.

Two Miami-Dade County Parks that have established butterfly-attracting gardens are Arch Creek Park, located at 1855 NE 135

St., and Castellow Hammock Nature Center, at 22301 SW 162 Ave. Here you can not only see a magnitude of butterflies on a nice calm sunny day, but you can also learn about the plants that attract them. You can take your new-found knowledge home too! By planting a variety of flowering plants along with specific larval food plants in your own yard you can not only create an attractive garden filled with colorful butterflies, but you can also create a living classroom for children and a source of endless joy for yourself. Your flowering garden also becomes a small oasis for the butterflies so they can carry on their lifecycles and maintain their

own existence. If that's not enough, your butterfly garden will likely attract the attention of hummingbirds as well.

If you would like to learn more about hummingbird & butterfly gardening, Castellow Hammock Nature Center offers a popular and informative class that includes a free hand-out and walk around the butterfly garden. Check the listing under Castellow Hammock for the Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening class on Saturday, April 10th.

Also explore Greynolds Park on the “Birds, Butterflies and Binoculars” Walk on Saturdays and Sundays. Check the listing under Greynolds Park for dates and times.

Meet a Native

What are Pine Rocklands

by Lily M.R. Forni

Do you know what a pine rockland is? Only South Florida has *Pinus Elliotti* var. *densa*, also known as South Florida slash pine (“slash” refers to cuts in the bark made by humans to collect resin), or Dade County pine, to the locals. The slash pine forest grew on the Miami Rock Ridge, interspersed with areas of transitional habitat such as hardwood hammock.

Oolitic limestone began forming 100,000 years ago below the sea, creating a ridge that was raised up like a bony spine above the surrounding wetlands. This limestone is a silver-colored rock that appears hard but is made porous through a chemical reaction to acid. The Richmond Pineland tract, which surrounds Metrozoo, covers 853 acres. The pine rockland is considered globally imperiled, and we are grateful to have this unique habitat in our own backyard.

Unfortunately, this native treasure may disappear before most South Floridians learn to appreciate it. In the late 1800’s, there were 185,000 contiguous acres in a wide swath along our eastern shore, but today only about 2% of the original habitat is left outside of the Everglades.

The pine rockland is rocky, sandy, and flat all at once. Tiny plants, wildflowers, bushy shrubs, palms and the towering pines and interspersed together. At first glance the pine rockland appears open, airy and sunny; yet the ground may be thick with prickly plants hiding all kinds of fascinating native animals. When exploring this endangered area, stay on an established path, steering clear of saw palmetto as it is protected with sharp teeth along the leaf stem. Beware of poisonwood as it shows no outward signs of its burning irritations to the skin of an inexperienced hiker.

This habitat and its flora and fauna evolved and adapted to natural disasters and change in unique ways. Lightning ignites

wildfires at the beginning of the wet season when fuel is naturally abundant. The pine rockland habitat can not only tolerate fire, but also reaps benefits from it. Among these benefits is the residual ash, which recycles nutrients. Fire tolerance gives slash pine an edge compared with other trees more likely to be destroyed; thus succession growth is reduced.

Slash pine seedlings are protected from fire by remaining in a grass-stage for several years after germination with needles tightly wrapped around the bud. Meanwhile, a strong taproot grows down into a crevice, binding the young plant securely to the oolitic limestone. Fire may burn the outer layer of needles, but the bud remains unharmed and continues to grow. Moreover, the outer layer of the growing pine’s bark protects the interior cambium layer during a fire. A fully mature slash pine has branches only at the upper end of its trunk. This offers fire protection to the tree itself, and also benefits the entire habitat by increasing sunlight to the forest floor and providing conditions optimal for seed germination.

Coontie plants, used by early South Dade inhabitants to make starch, have another fire-protecting mechanism. The plant has an underground stem that acts as a storehouse for nutrients. After a fire, the coontie continues to grow, using its stored supply of nutrients.

After the smoke is gone and the animals are still scattered, the habitat appears devastated and austere. The black soot and charred remains make an intense visual impact on the visitor. The air smells fresh, yet it is heavy with the powerful scent of fire. It seems too quiet and too still. Within a few weeks, tender shoots sprout, such as milk pea, whose roots were buried safely underground. Other plants will flourish, and the pine rockland habitat will be rejuvenated and healthier for the next several years as a direct result of the fire.

If you look carefully you can find two very small, endangered pineland plants. Deltoid spurge spreads over oolitic limestone with its roots reaching through crevices, or it grows in sandy pockets. Small’s milkwort grows only in pockets of sand that accumulate in depressions between the rocks.

The pine rockland calls to us as the wilderness will. It is indeed a special place, with its own unique beauty. Some parks, schools and even neighborhoods are trying to increase a natural pine habitat around them. The pine rocklands are gaining headway through Miami-Dade County’s Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program, and you can help by supporting local conservation efforts. If you visit a pine rockland area, remember to stay on an established trail and carry your own litter bag along with your other personal supplies.

Miami Metrozoo is pleased to provide naturalist guided pine rockland walking tours. **Please call the Metrozoo Education Department for more information, walk schedule and reservations: (305) 255-5551.**

Reprinted with permission from the author and the Zoological Society of Florida, “Toucan Talk”

Natural Areas Management

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY CALENDAR

ADOPT-A-NATURAL AREA

Natural areas are the hammocks, pinelands, wetlands, mangrove forests, and seashores that once covered all of Miami-Dade County, but now remain only in undeveloped, protected areas. These habitats, and the plants and animals that live there, are all part of Miami-Dade County’s natural heritage, and a resource to be treasured for generations to come. Non-native plants, introduced from around the world, have invaded these unique natural areas crowding out rare native plant species, seriously disrupting important natural processes such as storm recovery, and natural fire cycles. The control of non- native plants is considered one of the most important elements in the management of all natural habitats. The Department’s Natural Areas Management (NAM) Volunteer Program gives you the opportunity to assist in the restoration of one of Miami-Dade County’s natural areas by removing exotic plants, planting seedlings, or picking up trash.

Volunteers are taught to identify various invasive non-native plants while gaining a greater understanding of these ecosystems. Other opportunities include historical research, fund raising and general office work. **Please call (305) 257-0904 for directions and maps for these and other natural area sites scheduled for Volunteer Work Days.**

NATURAL AREAS SITES AND VOLUNTEER DATES

Saturday, May 1, 2004
Kendall Indian Hammocks Park
11345 S.W. 79 Street

Saturday, May 1, 2004
Oak Grove Park
NE 159 Street and 6 Avenue

All scheduled workdays begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at 12:00 Noon. Come prepared to work outdoors. For your safety, closed-toe shoes are required and long pants are strongly recommended. All participants are required to complete a release form prior to participation. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have the form signed by a parent or guardian. Groups should pre-register by calling (305) 257-0904.

Wilderness Adventures

Pack your “Sense of Adventure” and enjoy a fun-filled day of exploring. Experience and learn about the places where you live with a new perspective. Join our naturalist-guided Eco-Adventure tours to some of the most unique and beautiful wilderness parks of southern Florida, where you will have an opportunity to return to the old Florida charm. We take pride in minimizing impact on the environment while you encounter and unlock the magic of places like the Everglades, Big Cypress Swamp, and the Upper Florida Keys. For your comfort, you will be transported in our comfortable, air-conditioned Eco Vans. Unless otherwise stated, please bring lunch, beverage, sunscreen, insect repellent, a long sleeved shirt, good walking shoes or boots, and a hat. Snacks and beverages will be provided on your journey as well as field guides and spotting scopes to help enhance your outdoor experience. **Fees include transportation and interpretive guide. Call (305) 365-3018 for more information and reservations.**

BIG CYPRESS SWAMP EXPLORATION

Saturday, May 22, 2004
Friday, May 14, 2004
Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Under 14 years)
Rated: Easy

If you like to explore and discover new things, this tour is for you! On this naturalist-guided tour of the Big Cypress National Preserve, a watery wilderness of over 700,000 acres, you will cross the historic Tamiami Trail to Turner River Road. Here you will see an abundance of wildlife from alligators to zebra butterflies, including

the endangered Everglades Snail Kite. On Turner River Road, the tour frequently stops to view and learn about colorful wildflowers and wading birds that abound in this area. The road ends at Bear Island where you will enjoy a lunch break in the great outdoors! **For more information and Reservations call (305) 365-3018. Tour meets at the A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center.**

BIG CYPRESS SWAMP TROMP

Saturday, May 15, 2004
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fee: \$30.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Under 14 years)
Rated: Moderate (A wet wading tour through cypress swamps.)
Cool your feet on this fun hike exploring wet prairies, sloughs and cypress swamps. Heighten your awareness by looking for wildflowers and the animals that call these habitats home; from reptiles and amphibians to birds, mammals, and colorful butterflies. This tour is limited to 10 participants to lessen the impact on the environment, so be sure to sign-up early. Bring a change of dry shoes. **For more information and Reservations call (305) 365-3018. Tour meets at the A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center.**

FAKAHATCHEE STRAND STATE PRESERVE

Saturday, May 29, 2004
Friday, May 7, 2004
Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Under 14 years)
Rated: Moderate (A wet wading tour through cypress swamps.)
This is wild Florida at its best! Leave your inhibitions behind and follow an informative naturalist guide into the heart of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve. In this daunting, but picturesque swamp, you will discover some of the rarest plants in Florida that include the Ghost Orchid. Here too is where your footprint



can mingle with those of the Florida Panther, Black Bear and Everglades Mink. You will walk along old, elevated logging roads created to harvest cypress trees in the 1940’s. Prepare for a rugged Eco-Adventure! Bring a change of dry shoes. **For more information and Reservations call: (305) 365-3018. Tour meets at the A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center.**

LOXAHATCHEE ARTHUR R. MARSHALL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sunday, May 2, 2004
Time: 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM
Fee: \$40.00/Adults, \$15.00/Children
Rated: Easy
Spend a day exploring the northern Everglades. This trip features a cypress swamp boardwalk and marsh trail exploration. Spot wading birds, hawks, migrating waterfowl and alligators. Bring bird guidebooks, binoculars, lunch and water. **For more information and Reservations call: (305) 365-3018. Tour meets at the Greynolds Park Boathouse.**

BIG CYPRESS VAN TRIP WITH BIKE RIDE – LOOP ROAD

Saturday, May 8, 2004
Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Fee: \$35.00 - Hybrid Mountain Bikes are provided (\$30.00 if you bring and ride your personal bike)
Rated: Moderate
Bike on a trail through a pristine section of Big Cypress National Preserve along Loop Road and discover a world swarming with magnificent wildlife. **Tour meets at the A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center. For more information and Reservations, please call (305) 365-3018.**

Canoe Trips

We are really excited about our spring line up of EcoAdventure canoeing in the urban and wilderness parks. Our naturalist aquatic team has put together a series of tours that offer professionally led outdoor adventures, the best gear, great park locations, and lots of creative touches. Be sure to check out the rating for each trip. Most are easy to moderate. For all canoe trips, unless otherwise stated, bring snacks, water (1 quart minimum), sunscreen, insect repellent, long-sleeved shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat. It is suggested that you place important belongings in a sealable plastic bag or waterproof container. Fee includes all canoeing equipment. Don't forget your binoculars for viewing spring birds and other wildlife. Participants under 18 years of age (depending on program site), are welcome after completing a Release of Liability form by a parent or legal guardian. County regulations require life vests to be worn at all times by all participants. *Customized tours and transportation can be arranged for groups of six or more by calling the Eco-tourism Office at (305) 365-3018.*



KEY BISCAYNE CANOE TRIPS

MORNING CANOE TRIPS

Friday, May 28, 2004
Sunday, May 16, 2004
Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

SUNSET CANOE TRIPS

Friday, April 30, 2004
Saturday, May 8, 2004
Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 9, 2004 (Mother's Day!)
Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Fee: \$20.00

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Explore the mangrove-lined western shoreline of Key Biscayne, an extensive marine preserve for nurse sharks, wading birds, and colorful underwater marine life. Special Group Tours are available for dates not listed. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

KEY BISCAYNE FULL MOON CANOE TRIPS:

Tuesday, May 4, 2004
Fee: \$20.00
Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Experience the romance of Biscayne Bay and enjoy the spectacular view of the Miami skyline by moonlight while exploring the mangrove-lined western shoreline of Key Biscayne, an extensive marine preserve for unique plants, wading birds and colorful marine life. Special group tours are available for dates not listed. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

INDIAN KEY CANOE & SNORKEL TRIP

Saturday, May 29, 2004
Time: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Fee: \$45.00 (Includes transportation in Eco Vans)

Rated: Moderate

Take a step back in time with a canoe and snorkeling tour around the first government seat of Miami-Dade County and where a luxury hotel and bowling alley once stood on this tiny island in the Florida Keys. We will explore the plant and animal life on the island and beneath the surrounding waters. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Meet at A.D. Barnes Park Nature Center.**

CHAPMAN FIELD CANOE TRIP

Saturday, June 19, 2004
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Fee: \$25.00

Rated: Easy

Explore this rich marine community located in South Biscayne Bay. Observe various wading birds feeding on tidal flats and learn about the mangrove environment surrounding this guided canoe tour.

For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Trip leaves from Chapman Field Park, 13810 Old Cutler Road.

BISCAYNE BAY SUNRISE AND SUNSET CANOE TRIP

Saturday, May 1 & 15, 2004
Sunday, May 16, 2004
Time: Sunrise 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Saturday, May 1, 8 & 15, 2004
Sunday, May 9, 2004
Time: Sunset 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Fee: \$20.00

Rated: Easy

Discover a habitat teeming with life on this naturalist guided canoe trip through the Mangrove shores of Matheson Hammock Park. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Trip leaves from Matheson Hammock Park.**

HISTORIC OLETA RIVER CANOE TRIP

Every Saturday
Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fee: \$20.00/Person

Rated: Moderate

Paddle along one of Florida's most historic and beautiful rivers. Catch a view of many wading birds in their natural habitats and visit an undisturbed Tequesta Indian midden. Bring binoculars, bird guidebooks, lunch and water. **Reservations required. Please call (305) 365-3018 at least one week in advance. Meet at East Greynolds Park, NE 167 Street & Biscayne Blvd., N. Miami Beach.**

MOTHER'S DAY SUNSET CANOE TRIP TO CORAL REEF PARK

Sunday, May 9, 2004
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Fee: \$20.00/Adults, \$10.00/Children
Rated: Easy

We'll take a leisurely paddle to Coral Reef Park in search of wildlife, have a rest and a picnic, and then head back to enjoy a beautiful sunset and flocks of ibis heading up to roost. Please come prepared with drinks, snacks or picnic, blanket, sun protection and shoes that you can get wet. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.**



MATHESON'S MANGROVES CANOE TRIP

Saturday, May 1 & 15, 2004
Time: 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM
Fee: \$20.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Explore a rich marine community located in Biscayne Bay. Observe various wading birds and learn about the mangrove environment surrounding you. **For more information and Reservations: (305) 365-3018. Trip leaves from Matheson Hammock Park.**

DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

CHICKEN KEY CANOE TRIP

Daylight Excursions on Sundays
Time: 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Fee: \$25.00/Adults (Includes general admission to the Estate)
\$15.00/Child (9-14 years old)
Rated: Easy to Moderate

This canoe trip leaves from the estate's boat basin to Chicken Key, a seven acre mangrove island located one mile off-shore in Biscayne Bay. A rich variety of wading birds and marine life will be observed. This trip is designed for beginners and experts alike. **Reservations are required. Please call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor's Center.**

MOONLIGHT CANOE TRIP

Monday, May 3, 2004
Time: 7:00 PM – 10:30 PM
Fee: \$35.00/Adults Only
Rated: Easy to Moderate

Enjoy the sights and sounds as you paddle across the moon-lit bay to Chicken Key and experience this seven-acre bird rookery at night. A light campfire dinner will be served at the Key. **Limited space available. Advance Reservations are required. Please call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor's Center.**

Kayak and Canoe Rentals

KAYAKS AT CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND NATURE CENTER

4000 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne
(305) 361-6767
Kayak Rental Building (305) 365-3067
Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays
Time: 12:00 Noon - 6:00 PM
Call (305) 361-6767 for Weekday Rentals
Rates: \$10.00/Hour or \$25.00/3 Hours
\$5.00 Snorkeling Gear

Rentals at North Beach Rental Concession, East of Visitors and Nature Center
Enter at North Beach Entrance Parking Lot #1

CANOES AT GREYNOLDS PARK

17530 W. Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach
(305) 948-2891
Saturdays and Sundays
Time: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Rates: \$7.00/Adult, \$4.00/Child – Per Hour
Rentals at Greynolds Park Boathouse

CANOES AT BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE CENTER

17555 S.W. 79th Avenue, South Miami
(305) 255-4767
Saturdays and Sundays
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Rates: \$7.00/Adult, \$4.00/Child – Per Hour
Special Group Rentals Available
Rentals at Nature Center

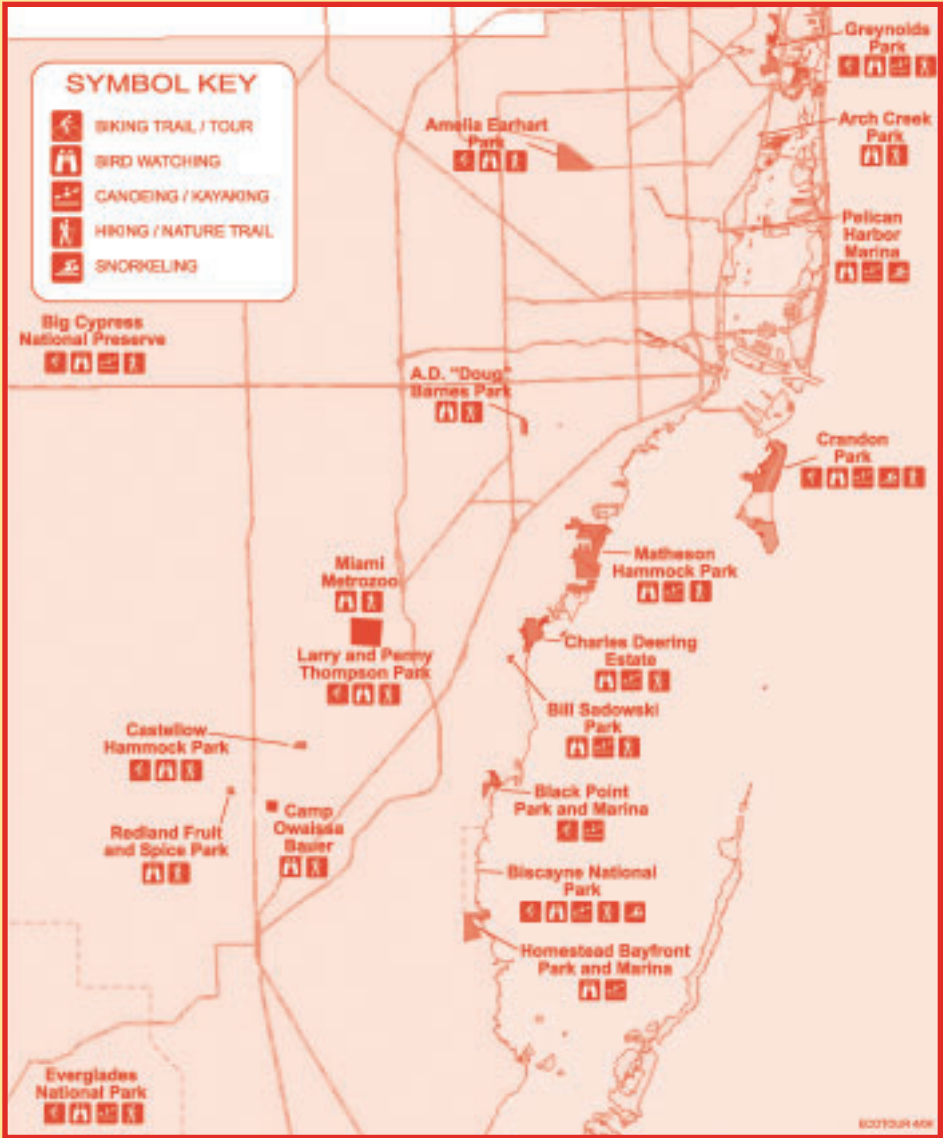
All participants must sign Rental Agreement. A Release of Liability form must be completed and signed by parent or guardian for participants of minority age (under 18 years of age) for all rentals.



INDICATES BAYNANZA-RELATED ACTIVITY

BAYNANZA '04 is an annual event that takes place in April 2004. The Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) hosts activities throughout the month to help improve our awareness and to get involved in protecting our air, water, land and natural resources. Also visit www.miamidade.gov/derm/baynanza for more information.

Eco-Tourism Program Sites



Environmental Adventure Camp
at Camp Owaissa Bauer

Exhilarating Nature Adventures Exploration
of the Everglades and Biscayne Bay!

Five fun-filled days at Camp Owaissa Bauer
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One-week overnight session in dormitory-style cabins

AGES 11 - 14

Kayaking • Snorkeling Trips • Rock Climbing • Nature Hikes
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July 26-30, 2004

Call Today!
305-365-3018
RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

www.miamidade.gov/parks

CALL 755-7848 (V/TDD) FOR MATERIALS IN ACCESSIBLE FORMAT, INFORMATION ON ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS (FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE)

Groups

ECOADVENTURES OFFERS CUSTOMIZED PRIVATE AND GROUP TOURS

For those who like to explore nature and its unique ecosystems, let us help you design your very own naturalist-guided EcoAdventure Tour of the Miami-Dade County's resource-based parks, the Everglades, Big Cypress or Florida Keys! Tell us what your group wants to do and see, and we'll design a special tour for you. We can accommodate groups from six and up, including bus tours. Special arrangements can be made for box lunches and dinner at local restaurants. Special bike tours, wildlife presentations, and slide shows are available upon request. For more information and for Group Sales Rates call the Eco-Tourism Office at (305) 365-3018, or (305) 365-3031.

FACILITY	FEATURES																
	Admission/Parking Fee	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Jogging/Walking Trails	Bike Trail	Fishing	Kayak/Snorkeling	Nature Photography	Nature Trail	Nature / Visitor Center	Museum	Ocean Walk	Swimming Beach	Canoe Rentals	Camp Grounds	Bird Watching Site	Guided Tours
A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center 3401 SW 72 Avenue, Miami (305) 666-5883 / (305) 662-4124		☹	☹	☹	☹			☹	☹	☹					☹	☹	☹
Amelia Earhart Park 401 East 65 Street, Hialeah (305) 685-8389	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹											☹
Arch Creek Park & Nature Center 1855 NE 135 Street, North Miami (305) 944-6111		☹	☹	☹				☹	☹	☹	☹					☹	☹
Castellow Hammock Park & Nature Center 22301 SW 162 Avenue, Homestead (305) 242-7688		☹	☹	☹				☹	☹	☹						☹	☹
Crandon Visitors' and Nature Center/ Crandon Adventures 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-6767 ext. 112	☹		☹		☹				☹	☹		☹	☹			☹	☹
Crandon Park 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-5421 / (305) 365-3018	☹	☹	☹	☹		☹	☹	☹	☹	☹		☹	☹	☹		☹	☹
Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Avenue, Miami (305) 235-1668	☹		☹						☹	☹						☹	☹
Greynolds Park 17530 W. Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach (305) 945-3425	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹			☹	☹					☹	☹	☹	☹
Haulover Park 10800 Collins Avenue, North Miami Beach (305) 947-3525	☹			☹	☹	☹	☹	☹				☹	☹			☹	☹
Kendall Indian Hammocks Park 11345 SW 79 Street, Miami (305) 596-9324		☹	☹	☹	☹				☹	☹						☹	☹
Larry and Penny Thompson Park 12451 SW 184 Street, Miami (305) 232-1049		☹	☹	☹	☹	☹			☹	☹			☹		☹	☹	☹
Pelican Harbor Marina 1275 NE 79th Street Causeway (305) 662-4124						☹	☹									☹	
Matheson Hammock Park 9610 Old Cutler Road, Miami (305) 666-6979	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹				☹			☹	☹			☹	☹
Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center 17555 SW 79 Avenue, Miami (305) 255-4767		☹	☹		☹	☹			☹	☹				☹	☹	☹	☹
Preston B. Bird and M. Heinlein Fruit & Spice Park 24801 SW 187 Avenue, Homestead (305) 247-5727	☹		☹													☹	☹
Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami (305) 251-0400 / (305) 255-5551	☹	☹	☹		☹			☹		☹	☹					☹	☹

Eco-Adventure Tours Newsletter

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Miami-Dade Parks provides recreational experiences for persons with disabilities. Call (305) 755-7848 (V/TDD) to request materials in accessible format and a sign language interpreter (request 7 days in advance).

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Key Biscayne, FL 33149

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BIKE TRIPS

Its spring in South Florida! Temperature and humidity create a “spring fever” state of mind and lots of energy to go biking! We have a variety of bike trips where you can exert some of that energy into peddling on wilderness trails looking for wildflowers, or observing spring migratory birds in the Everglades, discovering the rich history of Key Biscayne, or exploring historic country roads of the Redland Farming District. Fee includes all biking equipment. For all bike trips unless otherwise stated, bring a snack, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, long-sleeved shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat for protection against the sun. Sign up now for one of the following naturalist guided trips. Customized tours can be arranged for groups of six or more by calling the Eco-tourism Office at (305) 365-3018.



GREYNOLDS PARK COMMUNITY BIKE TOUR

Saturday, May 1, 2004
Sunday, May 9, 2004 (Mother’s Day)
Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child

Rated: Easy
Join us on a bike ride around Greynolds Park and the neighboring community and learn about their interesting history. **Reservations required. Please call (305) 365-3018. Meet at the Greynolds Park Boathouse.**

KEY BISCAYNIE HERITAGE BIKE TOUR

Friday, May 7, 2004
Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Fee: \$25.00/Person - Includes bike and helmet rental
\$20.00/Person – Ride your own bike
\$15.00/Child

Rated: Moderate (12-mile round trip)
Participants must be 12 years of age and older (An adult must accompany persons under 18 years.)

Explore the natural history of Key Biscayne as you bike along the streets and paths of this barrier island. Learn about the natural and historical events which created the Key Biscayne of today.



Special group tours are available for dates that are not listed. Must be 9 years of age or older. All children under 17 years must wear a helmet by state law. **Please call (305) 365-3018 for more information and Reservations. Meet at Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

EVERGLADES WILDFLOWER BIKE TRIP

Saturday, May 22, 2004
Time: 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Fee: \$25.00/Person - Includes bike, helmet rental & bottled water.
\$20.00/Person - Ride your own bike.
\$10.00/Vehicle - Entrance Fee to Everglades National Park

Rated: Moderate (12-miles round trip)
Join naturalist Roger Hammer on this leisurely paced, fun and educational 12-mile bike ride on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. We will stop periodically along the trail to observe and learn about the wildflowers found in this unique region. Bring a light lunch to eat at the halfway point next to scenic Pine Glade Lake. Bottled water provided. **Meet at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center in Everglades National Park. Pre-registration is required: Call (305) 365-3018 for more information and Reservations.**



Reservation & Registration Information

To make reservations for the tours listed, please contact the Eco-Tourism Office at (305) 365-3018. Some tour reservations can also be made directly by calling the nature center that is offering the activity (see tour listings). Tours are limited to small groups and reservations must be made in advance. Reservations are confirmed and guaranteed after payment is received. Credit Cards (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express) are accepted by phone. There is a 24 hour registrant cancellation policy. Standbys will be called to fill spaces where payment has not been made one week prior to the event. Please make checks or money orders payable to: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. Tours may be cancelled if the minimum number of reservations (Total 6) is not met two days prior to the actual date. All Eco-Adventure tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions.

About Eco-Adventures

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department offers a variety of Eco-Adventure Tours designed to introduce residents and visitors to some of South Florida’s most pristine parks and historic sites. Participants will discover the beauty and diversity of the subtropical paradise on canoe trips, bike trips, kayaking trips, snorkeling trips, marine wading tours, wildlife encounters, bird watching, and wilderness van tours into some of the best remote wilderness areas of the Everglades, Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida Keys, and local coastal parks. Our naturalist guides are well trained in safety and outdoor skills and have a thorough knowledge of South Florida’s natural history. The naturalist-guided tours provide the opportunity to learn historic facts, see native wildlife, study new tropical plants and wildflowers, be mentally and physically refreshed, and enjoy other great experiences. Eco-Adventures is committed to the principles of “Leave No Trace,” by teaching and practicing ways of reducing visitor impact on natural areas and enhance the visitor’s experience of the environment.



Naturalists Notebook

Spring Happenings

The spring season in South Florida signals that less humid and cooler days are coming to an end, and the warm, steamy days of summer are not far away. It also means that the traditional cycle of the rainy season will soon start in late May, providing the first tropical downpours that encourage the saw grass and the dry prairies and sloughs to fill up with water and become active with a sudden, explosive growth of algae, plankton, crayfish, snails, and fish. Wading birds will start to spread out across the Everglades landscape seeking new feeding areas, while love struck male bull-alligators bellow loudly for the attention of an interested female. Our limited space can only alert you to this and other wildlife attractions but we hope it’s enough to get you out exploring park trails for some of these rituals of spring in South Florida:

- Spring bird migration peaks in mid-April and is one of the most exciting times of the year for birders, both beginners and seasoned veterans. Visit the Miami-Dade County parks birding “Hot Spots” to search for shorebirds, wading birds, songbirds, and hawks. Best birding parks are Bill Sadowski Park, Castellow Hammock, Crandon Park, Deering Estate at Cutler, A. D. Barnes Park, Greynolds Park, and Matheson Hammock. Look for the Binoculars Symbol Key on the Eco-Tourism Program Sites Map and the Facilities Directory to locate these birding sites.
- Cypress trees are replacing old growth with fresh pale green needles.
- Golden Orb silk spiders are hatching and the young go ballooning on spring breezes to establish new homes.
- Be careful! Do not trim your trees as many songbirds are nesting or raising young.
- Woodstorks are nesting in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.
- Most Florida snakes begin mating rituals.
- May starts the height of crocodile nesting in the Upper Florida Keys.
- The sweet perfume fragrance of the Krug’s holly, sable palm, saw palmetto, and wild coffee flowers are filling the air attracting a variety of insect pollinators!
- Shy grey fox mothers are raising their kits in the dens. They are frequently sighted at Bill Sadowski Park crossing the grounds at dawn and dusk or early afternoon.
- Live Oak trees are bursting into flower in Greynolds, A.D. Barnes, Matheson Hammock, and Castellow Hammock Parks providing a feeding feast for hummingbirds and spring migratory warblers.
- Marsh pink wildflowers along with Grass pink and Pine pink orchids are dotting the Everglades prairie landscape.
- Another spring bloomer is *Toxicodendron radicans*, or more commonly known as Poison Ivy, produces a small green flower that can be observed protruding from the stem. You might need to get close to actually see the tiny flower, but don’t get too close!
- Sea turtle nesting season starts in late April or early May on Haulover and Crandon Park beaches. Lights out!